Though attorney Matt Murdock is *blind*, his other senses function with *superhuman sharpness* – his *radar sense* guides him over every obstacle. With amazing fighting skills, he stalks the streets at night in relentless pursuit of justice as

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

PREVIOUSLY IN DAREDEVIL...

The Man without Fear is now a man *to* fear.

When the seemingly immortal sensei Master Izo targeted Daredevil in his war against The Hand, Matt Murdock was forced to align with his old enemy The Kingpin – and ended up taking control of The Hand itself. Matt came to power in a world run by the likes of Norman Osborn. Matt embraced his role as leader of the Hand, using them to combat evil and defend Hell's Kitchen.

But just because he's guiding The Hand toward nobler goals doesn't mean this league of assassins will change overnight. They are a violent group with a strict, if morally flexible code. Matt leaves the vigilante Black Tarantula to run the Hand operation in New York and oversee the construction of his Shadowland Fortress, and then heads to Japan with The White Tiger to unite The Hand Leadership.

The Hand's leadership, as it turns out, is as dysfunctional as its membership, especially Bakuto, the brash, young Daimyo of the Hand in South America. The Daimyos are also at the will of a secret cabal of Hand leaders. Donning his Daredevil gear, Matt confronts Bakuto– but they are ambushed by a hit squad of Hand Ninjas. While the two briefly unite to fight off the ambush, Bakuto becomes convinced that Daredevil orchestrated the attack.

With his tenuous hold losing its grip, Matt is visited by his former lover (and former Hand assassin) Elektra in a dream. In the dream, Elektra stabs Murdock – and upon waking, Murdock finds a small cut in the same exact spot where Elektra made the stab. Meanwhile, the secret cabal of Hand leaders gathers to discuss Matt's fate with their mole in Matt's camp – Matt's own confidant, the White Tiger!

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JIGOKU-CHU CASTLE
JAPAN
"TELL US, MAKOTO-- WHERE IS HE NOW? WHAT DOES YOUR *THIRD EYE* SEE?"
"HE IS OUTSIDE... *BROODING*.
"AS EVER, WHEN CONFLICTED, MURDOCK SEEKS *SOLACE* IN *SOLITUDE*...
"...THOUGH IT SEEMS HIS *SOLITUDE* HAS BEEN *BROKEN*!"

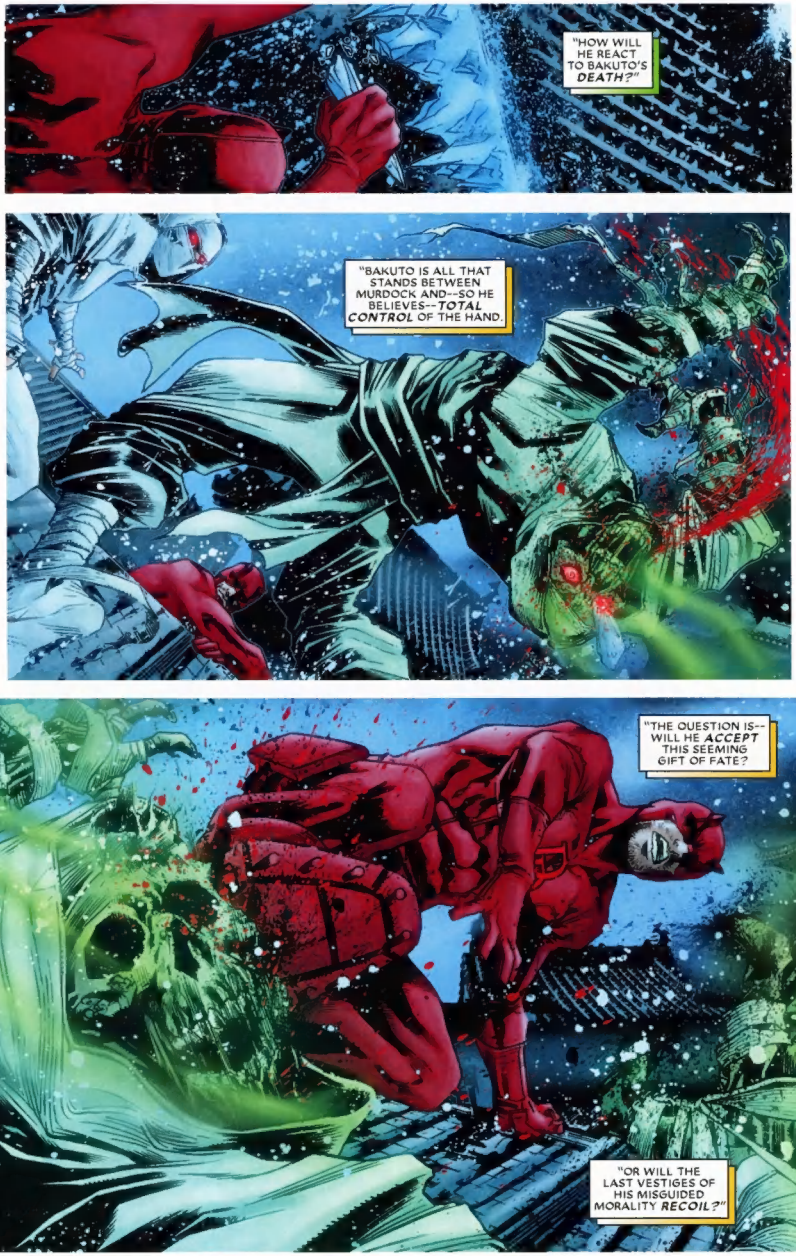
"BAKUTO HAS SENT HIM SOME COMPANY."
"VENGEANCE, NO DOUBT, FOR THE ATTEMPT ON BAKUTO'S LIFE.
"FOOL. HE DOES NOT KNOW MURDOCK AS WE DO."

"SHOULD WE AID HIM? OUR GRAND DESIGN DEPENDS UPON HIS SURVIVAL."
"AGAINST BAKUTO'S WITLESS THUGS? NO, TAKASHI...
"IF MURDOCK CANNOT DEFEAT A NINJA KILL-TEAM SINGLE-HANDED, HE IS NOT THE MAN WE THOUGHT.
"NOT THE MAN WE NEED...
"...AND ALL OUR YEARS OF CAREFUL PLANNING WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NAUGHT."

"CAN SHE BE TRUSTED?"
"OF COURSE NOT.
"WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF THE ARGENTINIAN'S *HEALING FACTOR*, HER *HAND CONDITIONING* HAS *REASSERTED* ITSELF--- AS WE KNEW IT WOULD.
"AND MURDOCK HAS TAKEN HER INTO HIS CONFIDENCE...
"WITNESS HOW SWIFTLY SHE PLANTED THE SEED OF *SHADOWLAND* IN HIS MIND."

"AND HOW FARES *MURDOCK?*"
UNNGH--!
"HE IS OUTNUMBERED...
"...OUT OF HIS ELEMENT...
NNNH--!
WEAK.
HELPLESS.
DECAPITATE HIM.

COME ON! DO IT!
KUNK
"...BUT HE IS COPING ADMIRABLY."


"HOW WILL HE REACT TO BAKUTO'S *DEATH?*"
"BAKUTO IS ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN MURDOCK AND--SO HE BELIEVES--*TOTAL CONTROL* OF THE HAND.
"THE QUESTION IS--WILL HE *ACCEPT* THIS SEEMING GIFT OF FATE?
"OR WILL THE LAST VESTIGES OF HIS MISGUIDED MORALITY *RECOIL?*"

JEPH LOEB ARTHUR ADAMS

ULTIMATE X

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The Devil's Notebook

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Dear Devil's Notebook Crew,

May I first begin with an apology to Mr. Diggle: I didn't trust you initially and for that I am sorry.

Being very, very dedicated to Brubaker and Bendis, I was teeth-grindingly set against you. Making Matt leader of The Hand not only made me drop my comic into the (thankfully dry) sink, but it had me pouting. I agonized over the thought of Matt turning over a very questionable new leaf.

But you didn't fail me, Andy. You've changed Matt's "Not Hell's Kitchen, not my problem" attitude into one of a broader view as he tackles international evil from the inside out. You've made the beginnings of your run luminously promising and I can't wait for the next issues.

I've been a DD fan for nine years now and the Man Without Fear holds a special place in my 18 year old heart.

Side Note: I am digging Matt's Japan attire. He's always been a classy dresser, but in the past few issues, down right snazzy is a better word for it.

In closing, I want to thank the entire DD team for a fantastic new run!

(Oh! And a quick flurry of praise for Joe Quesada for drawing Guardian Devil and creating Father. They're two of my personal favorites. Thank you Editor-in-Chief, sir!)

Katelyn Elliott

Dear Hornhead gang,

I've just pried my sweaty palms from issue #505. After years of cookin' in the Kitchen, ol' Hornhead leaps from the fire into the (Ja)pan! **(ED's NOTE: I take no responsibility for that horrible pun, and I'm embarrassed proofreading and standards didn't delete it. -SW.)**

It's not always easy getting a Marvel hit over here in Scotland **(ED's NOTE: I'm from Marvel, and I'd gladly hit you for that last pun. -SW)** but when I manage it the team at Daredevil never let me down.

I can't wait to brave this (Foggy) Scottish weather **(ED's NOTE: I hate you. -SW)** to find out what the mysterious Shadowland has in store ! The writers and artists this title attracts is just awesome.

Keep up the great work, for a Marvel reader without faith is a Marvel reader without hope!!

Steve Davidson
Musselburgh, Scotland

Horribly infantile puns aside, Steve, I'm glad you're Dig(ggle)ing the book. You seem to have really hit the BULLSEYE on what we're doing with Matt.

Greetings to the Daredevil Team,

I was first introduced to the Man Without Fear with issue number 77, guest-starring Spider-Man and pitting our heroes against the Sub-Mariner.

I've always loved this character and this book, and I generally have positive things to say about it. Now is no exception.

While I certainly do not, and have not, liked every single storyline, I must admit the current one has me fascinated. I am truly hopeful that the changes DD is going through will be lasting ones and will be respected by the writers who come in the future. These days are exciting days to be a Daredevil fan.

One of my biggest complaints, usually with characters like Daredevil, is that routinely their stories will be "rolled back" to some imagined 'glory-days' period rather than moving dynamically forward. Instead of character growth, we get character regression (which may be even worse than stagnation). I truly hope Daredevil can avoid falling back into some 'status quo' of some bygone era, but instead forges into new territory not already tread over by previous writing teams.

Keeper of the Flame, Nuff Said Sayer, and Real Frantic One,
Troy-David Phillips

Thanks for the kind words, Troy. I hope you keep liking what you're reading.

We also heard from Philip Rock, Robert Hawkins, Rusty Priske, Shaun Burdick and (as always) Kuljit Mithra.

As hinted at last issue, some big things are in store for the Daredevil this summer....and it all starts in just a couple weeks in long-awaited Shadowland #1 from the minds and desks of Andy Diggle, Billy Tan, Matt Banning and Matt Hollingsworth.

We're calling the story "The Battle for the Soul of New York" and you're going to see just Daredevil's action over the past few issues take him to a place he's only approached the edge of before.

All of the more gritty, "street-level" heroes of NYC are coming together for this mini-blockbuster and the smell of blood is in the air. (And if anyone has better terms than "gritty or street-level, please forward them to this address!)

So now you're wondering where you can follow all the action and I'm ready to spill.

Obviously you'll want to get your gritty hands on Shadowland #1-5 starting the first week of July.

From there you can follow the story into these ongoing Marvel titles:

-Daredevil #508-512 (featuring Andy and Antony and the return of Rob De La Torre on art!)
-Thunderbolts #148-149 by the new team of Jeff Parker and Kev Walker

Also, in August we're debuting 4 new mini-series taking place in the heart of Shadowland:

-Shadowland: Blood On The Streets by Antony Johnston and Wellinton Alves
-Shadowland: Power Man by Fred Van Lente and Mahmud Asrar
-Shadowland: Daughters of the Shadow by Jason Henderson and Ivan Rodriguez
-Shadowland: Vengeance of The Moon Knight by Gregg Hurwitz and Bong Dazo

Finally starting in August, four very special one-shots focus on the characters you're wondering about most.

-Shadowland: Bullseye by John Layman and Sean Chen
-Shadowland: Elektra by Zeb Wells and Emma Rios
-Shadowland: Ghost Rider by Rob Williams and Clayton Crain
-Shadowland: Spider-Man by Dan Slott and Paolo Siqueira (featuring Shang-Chi: Master of Kung-Fu!!)

And that's what Shadowland looks like. What I can't tell you about yet are all the plans we have beyond this. The ideas and books spinning out of the end of Shadowland are going to tear your heart out....but at least Matt will be in a better place.

-Stephen Wacker
5/19/10

"I–I know it sounds foolish–but sometimes, Matt--it feels as though you CAN see-as though you can see MORE than anyone else."
–Karen Page from Daredevil #7

This month's cover by Paolo Rivera.

NEXT MONTH:

SHADOWLAND #1

DAREDEVIL #508